



## Minutes of Waste Hub Liaison Group

28<sup>th</sup> April 2022, 5.30pm, via Microsoft Teams

### Present:

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| Paul Cassell, Local Representative                        | PC |
| Cllr Garnet Marshall, Middlewich Town Council             | GM |
| Simon McGrory, Local Representative                       | SM |
| Cllr Graham Orme, Middlewich Town Council                 | GO |
| Kevin Melling, MD, Ansa Environmental Services Ltd        | KM |
| Jane Thomason, Deputy MD, Ansa Environmental Services Ltd | JT |

### Other Attendees:

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| Megan Bowyer, PA to Kevin Melling (Minutes) | MB |
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### Apologies Received:

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| Cllr Mike Hunter, Cheshire East Ward Councillor | MH |
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| Agenda Item | Notes   | Action |
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| 1.          | <p><b>Welcome</b><br/>KM welcomed attendees declared the meeting open and chaired it throughout. He welcomed GM as the new representative from Middlewich Town Council and introductions were made.</p>   |        |
| 2           | <p><b>Minutes of Last Meeting and Matters Arising</b><br/> <b>2.1</b> The Minutes from the meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2022 were approved as an accurate and correct record.<br/><br/> <b>2.2 Matters Arising</b><br/> <b>Warmingham Lane gritting</b> – GO reported that it appears CEC are not going to update their gritting policy as originally thought but may leave it to individual town councils to nominate specific routes. He will keep the group updated. KM advised if we hear anything on the subject we will advise; our understanding was that the policy would be reviewed before next winter.<br/><br/> <b>Minor incident in Waste Transfer Station last Friday</b> – KM reported there was an incident last Friday (22/4). This was not on the scale of the previous incident last October, but a bang was heard onsite and there was a small fire which was quickly extinguished and caused no damage to equipment. We posted on social media to explain about the incident and to remind the public about safe disposal of batteries and</p> |        |

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|                 | <p>aerosols and we notified the Environment Agency. Things were controlled, and our methodology did work, but a small gas aerosol of the type used in diy (propane or butane) went through the system. A brief discussion then took place within the group to better understand the incident and measures in place to prevent future occurrences. GO has information on the system that was used in the salt mine and will send that through for consideration. <b>Action GO</b></p> <p><b>Hydrogen visit</b> – we will arrange a new visit for group members on site to view the hydrogen facility now that it is ready to ‘go live’. <b>Action MB to arrange</b></p>  | <p><b>GO</b></p> <p><b>MB</b></p> |
| <p><b>3</b></p> | <p><b>Operational Update</b></p> <p>JT provided an update and advised now that Covid restrictions have been lifted things are getting back to normal. Ansa grounds and horticulture departments are experiencing a busy period with planting and mowing. Waste tonnages on garden waste are starting to increase and this coming bank holiday we are expecting the increase to continue.</p> <p>KM added that Ansa has been supporting a wide range of initiatives and groups in the local community, including:</p> <p>Sponsorship of Middlewich Junior Cricket club,<br/> Opening of visitor centre re Murgatroyd’s restored brine pump,<br/> Funding for reprint of SE Cheshire Cycle map updates,<br/> Contribution towards Queens Jubilee event organised by Middlewich TC,<br/> Support for the Middlewich FAB festival.</p> <p>We have also established a Town Ranger service in conjunction with Middlewich Town Council.</p> |                                   |
| <p><b>4</b></p> | <p><b>Project Vanguard Update</b></p> <p>This is the hydrogen project for which Ansa has converted two refuse vehicles which when used will reduce emissions by a third. They are hybrid and can flip over to diesel once the hydrogen has been used up.</p> <p>Everything is now in place; the site is commissioned and there are just a few formalities still to complete before we can start to draw the hydrogen.</p> <p>GO asked about safety inspections. This is a pilot scheme and KM explained that it will receive very close scrutiny both from the supplier and Ansa. As stated above, we have donated two new vehicles to take part in the pilot and the fitters onsite have been trained to visually inspect them in addition to supplier monitoring. The equipment is remotely monitored by the suppliers. The main equipment, the catalyser, has a regular inspection regime as do the vehicles.</p>                  |                                   |
| <p><b>5</b></p> | <p><b>Middlewich Community Matters</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Update on the Camfil carbon trials</b></li> </ul>  |                                   |

KM confirmed that Ansa had been working with the supplier, Camfil, to see if there was a bespoke mix of pellets that would be more effective. He had hoped that this trial would be complete by now, but Camfil have experienced a delay. We have therefore recently replaced the carbon pellets using the existing mix.

We are now up to replacing the carbon three times a year rather than just once a year as originally expected. At Easter bank holiday we experienced nice weather but we didn't receive a single complaint about odours so that is positive, and we are hopeful that it will continue. GM suggested that 'Ansa should be seen and not smelt'

- **ANSA Policy regarding waste vehicles using short cuts** – JT explained about the in-cab technology in our refuse collection vehicles. Each day this shows the crew a pack of work highlighting the roads they need to work on and which they should access. Each of the roads on the mapping system show speed limits, weight limits, bridges, roadworks etc and the vehicle must abide by the rules. Other risks such as schools and old people's homes are also identified.

Shortcuts – if there are no restrictions on the highway, refuse vehicles have a legitimate right to use those roads. JT assumed that we were talking specifically about shortcuts through estates in Middlewich. If we are made aware that these have occurred, we check using the in-cab technology and cameras on vehicles and take appropriate action

Ansa has numerous engagements with drivers and loaders in attempts to prevent this happening. This includes specific toolbox talks on behaviour, driving standards and where they should be driving. Also, there are stickers in the refuse vehicles reminding employees that they are being watched constantly and their behaviour should be exemplary. PC advised he hasn't seen any Ansa vehicle on the restricted routes in the last 3 weeks, so he feels that the system is working. Separately he mentioned that the state of the weight restriction road signs in Middlewich is poor; they are unreadable and this needs to be sorted out by Cheshire Highways and/or Middlewich Town Council. GM advised that efforts are being made to address this by the town council. GO confirmed he intends to raise this at the next committee meeting.

- **Update on fugitive emission testing** - Ansa continues to do testing and no complaints have been received recently. We continue to do sampling of the carbon pellets and once that project re the pellet mix is complete, we will then commission a new stack testing.
- **Missed bin collections. What is ANSA policy if bins cannot be emptied?** GO gave a specific example of missed bins at Dierdens Terrace. He asked if it depends on the reason and is it the responsibility of residents to

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|          | <p>report or does the driver go back to mop-up without this? JT advised that at Dierdens Terrace there are roadworks due to a sinkhole and it is difficult for the vehicles to access. The vehicle must reverse up the road to access the bins. If they get to the location early in the morning it's possible to manoeuvre and successfully empty the bins, but later on in the day it isn't possible to reverse as people park their cars on the yellow lines outside the mini market blocking the refuse vehicles from manoeuvring. Arrangements have been made for collections to be undertaken early in the day.</p> <p>JT explained that the in-cab technology allows the crew to tick electronically to say they've completed a street and/or to say that a particular customer hasn't left out their bin for collection. This electronic information goes to CE customer services so if residents ring in, the information is available. GO suggested that information about the process is put on the Ansa website. <b>Action JT</b> to review and consider</p>   | <p><b>JT</b></p>                                   |
| <p>6</p> | <p><b>AOB</b><br/><b>New Bins</b></p> <p>SM asked about new house builds and the responsibility for providing bins. What is the position? KM advised that the CEC policy changed approx. 2 years ago when they introduced charges for bins for new houses and for replacement bins with certain exceptions. Through the pandemic there has been a backlog in supplies, so Ansa has had issues in delivering new bins but residents who have paid can put out black bags with their waste and this will be collected until their bin arrives. SM advised that people had waited a year. KM and JT both expressed surprise and said that wasn't normal and asked for details so they could investigate and resolve. – <b>Action SM</b> to send through the details.</p> <p><b>Research &amp; Development</b></p> <p>GM recounted that from examining Ansa's financial statements it didn't appear that any money was being spent on research and development. KM had explained in detail how Ansa is funded and what funds are spent in this area, e.g., hydrogen trial, hydrolysed vegetable fuel trials, review of carbon filtering system etc. He thought it would be a really good idea for Ansa to explain this widely through an easy read press release or update to the website. It looks like Ansa is sitting on a large amount of money and not investing anything but that is definitely not the case. <b>Action KM</b> to review</p> <p>GO advised that he is working on two projects relating to air quality and speeding within the town. He will share the information when it is published. <b>Action GO</b></p> | <p><b>SM</b></p> <p><b>KM</b></p> <p><b>GO</b></p> |

The meeting closed at 18.35. Next Meeting to be held on 28<sup>th</sup> July 2022 at 17.30